

Musician hoping for annual event

By RICK SMITH
Staff Writer

A San Angelo musician hopes that Thursday's celebration of the feast of Saint Cecilia will lead to an annual musical event involving musicians from throughout the city.

"It would be a plus for San Angelo, a way to bring our cultures together," said Ernest Perez, a symphony board member and past president of the San Angelo Cultural Affairs Council.

"We all know that when it comes to music, there are no language barriers. Even if we don't always understand the words, the music communicates with us all," said Perez, who performs with Los Bohemios, a mariachi band.

Perez and a number of other local musicians will participate in a Thanksgiving Mass at 9 a.m. Thursday at St. Mary's Church, 7 W. Ave. N.

Nov. 22 is also St. Cecilia's Day, he explained, and the special music will help honor the patron saint of musicians.

The bands and singers will begin the music outside the church and lead the congregation in with "Las Mananitas," a traditional serenade sung on birthdays and at celebrations.

The musicians and singers will sing liturgical music during the service, said Socorro Ramirez, church secretary.

Carolina Luna, who directs St. Mary's 6 p.m. Saturday choir, came up with the idea of combining a Thanksgiving Mass with a celebration for the saint, Ramirez said.

Perez hopes to expand the Saint Cecilia celebration next year.

Celebration of the saint's day is a special event in Mexico, he said, and he would like to see it become a San Angelo tradition.

"I would like to have a special celebration every year and invite all types of musicians to participate," he said.

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